

SEP 26 2006

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A transport system for a portable auger comprising:

a lever tube having a first lever tube end and a second lever tube end;

a power source frame for mounting of an auger power source, the first lever tube end rigidly connected to the power source frame,

a pivot tube having a first pivot tube end and a second pivot tube end, the first pivot tube end rigidly connected to the first lever tube end;

an axle housing, having a first axle housing end and a second axle housing end, the second pivot tube end rigidly connected to the axle housing;

a transport powered drive unit having a power output shaft, the transport powered drive unit mounted internal to the axle housing;

a powered wheel axle having a first powered wheel axle end and a second powered wheel axle end, the first powered wheel axle end suitably connected to the power output shaft, the second powered wheel axle end protruding from the first axle housing end;

a drive hub inserted on the second powered wheel axle end, the drive hub suitably attached to the second powered wheel axle end to freewheel about the powered wheel axle, the drive hub having a means for attachment of a first wheel;

a means for selectively locking the drive hub to the powered wheel axle to prevent the drive hub from freewheeling about the powered wheel axle; and

a freewheeling axle having a first freewheeling axle end and a second freewheeling axle end, the first freewheeling axle end suitably connected to the second axle housing end, the second freewheeling housing end having means for attachment of a second wheel.

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2. (Original) The transport system of claim 1 wherein the means for selectively locking the drive hub to the powered wheel axle comprises an opening in the powered wheel axle; and opening in the drive hub; and a hub locking pin, whereby insertion of the hub locking pin in the openings in the powered wheel axle and the drive hub locks the drive hub to the powered wheel axle.

3. (Original) The transport system of claim 2 further comprising a means for locking the power output shaft to prevent rotation of the power output shaft.

4. (Original) The transport system of claim 3 wherein the means for locking the power output shaft comprises an opening in the powered wheel axle; an opening in the axle housing and a drive axle pin, whereby insertion of the drive axle pin in the openings in the axle housing and the powered wheel axle locks the power output shaft.

5. (Original) The transport system of claim 3 wherein the means for locking the power output shaft comprises an opening in the power output shaft; an opening in the axle housing and a drive axle pin, whereby insertion of the drive axle pin in the openings in the axle housing and the power output shaft locks the power output shaft.

6. (Original) The transport system of claim 1 wherein the power source is pivotably mounted to the power source frame, whereby the power source maintains a horizontal orientation when the transport system is pivoted about the powered wheel axle and the free wheel axle.

7. (Original) The transport system of claim 1 wherein the first powered wheel axle end is suitably connected to the power output shaft by a connecting sleeve, the connecting sleeve suitably fastened to the first powered wheel axle end and the power output shaft.

8. (Currently amended) An axle assembly for a transport system for a portable auger, the axle assembly comprising:

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an axle housing, having a first axle housing end and a second axle housing end;  
~~the second pivot tube end rigidly connected to the axle housing;~~

a transport powered drive unit having a power output shaft, the transport powered drive unit mounted internal to the axle housing;

a powered wheel axle having a first powered wheel axle end and a second powered wheel axle end, the first powered wheel axle end suitably connected to the power output shaft, the second powered wheel axle end protruding from the first axle housing end;

a drive hub inserted on the second powered wheel axle end, the drive hub suitably attached to the second powered wheel axle end to freewheel about the powered wheel axle, the drive hub having a means for attachment of a first wheel;

a means for selectively locking the drive hub to the powered wheel axle to prevent the drive hub from freewheeling about the powered wheel axle;

a freewheeling axle having a first freewheeling axle end and a second freewheeling axle end, the first freewheeling axle end suitably connected to the second axle housing end, the second freewheeling housing end having means for attachment of a second wheel, and

~~a means for locking the power output shaft to prevent rotation of the power output shaft~~ a lock for locking the power output shaft to prevent rotation of the power output shaft comprising an opening in the powered wheel axle; an opening in the axle housing and a drive axle pin, whereby insertion of the drive axle pin in the openings in the axle housing and the powered wheel axle locks the power output shaft.

9. (Original) The axle assembly of claim 8 wherein the means for selectively locking the drive hub to the powered wheel axle comprises an opening in the powered wheel axle; and opening in the drive hub; and a hub locking pin, whereby insertion of the hub locking pin in the openings in the powered wheel axle and the drive hub locks the drive hub to the powered wheel axle.

10. (Cancelled)

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11. (Cancelled)

12. (currently amended) An axle assembly for a transport system for a portable auger, the axle assembly comprising:

an axle housing, having a first axle housing end and a second axle housing end;  
a transport powered drive unit having a power output shaft, the transport powered drive unit mounted internal to the axle housing;

a powered wheel axle having a first powered wheel axle end and a second powered wheel axle end, the first powered wheel axle end suitably connected to the power output shaft, the second powered wheel axle end protruding from the first axle housing end;

a drive hub inserted on the second powered wheel axle end, the drive hub suitably attached to the second powered wheel axle end to freewheel about the powered wheel axle, the drive hub having a means for attachment of a first wheel;

a means for selectively locking the drive hub to the powered wheel axle to prevent the drive hub from freewheeling about the powered wheel axle;

a freewheeling axle having a first freewheeling axle end and a second freewheeling axle end, the first freewheeling axle end suitably connected to the second axle housing end, the second freewheeling housing end having means for attachment of a second wheel, and

a lock ~~The axle assembly of claim 108 wherein the means for locking the power output shaft comprises an opening in the powered output shaft; an opening in the axle housing and a drive axle pin, whereby insertion of the drive axle pin in the openings in the axle housing and the power output shaft locks the power output shaft.~~

13. (Original) The axle assembly of claim 8 wherein the first powered wheel axle end is suitably connected to power output shaft by a connecting sleeve, the connecting sleeve suitably fastened to the first powered wheel axle end and the power output shaft.

14-18. (Cancelled.)

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19. (New) The axle assembly of claim 12 wherein the means for selectively locking the drive hub to the powered wheel axle comprises an opening in the powered wheel axle; and opening in the drive hub; and a hub locking pin, whereby insertion of the hub locking pin in the openings in the powered wheel axle and the drive hub locks the drive hub to the powered wheel axle.

20. (New) The axle assembly of claim 12 wherein the first powered wheel axle end is suitably connected to power output shaft by a connecting sleeve, the connecting sleeve suitably fastened to the first powered wheel axle end and the power output shaft.

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